The Law Commission is further of the view that the offence of eve teasing falls within the scope of Section 509 and there is no need for a new Section 376F as recommended by the National Commission for Woman. However, the Law Commission feels that the quantum of punishment be increased from one year to three years and fine.

Accordingly, it is recommended that Section 509 be amended in the following manner:

> "Section 509: whoever, intending to insult the modesty of any women, utters any word, makes any sound or gesture, or exhibits any object, intending that such word or sound shall be heard or that such gesture or object shall be see, by such woman, or intrudes upon the privacy of such woman, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to 3 years and shall also be liable to fine"

(c) and (d) The recommendations of the Law Commission made in 156th report have been referred to State Governments for their views and the views of the State Governments are in the process of being received.

Circuit bench of Kolkata High Court in Jalpaiguri

1355. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the status of creating a Circuit bench of the Kolkata High Court in Jalpaiguri; and

(b) the tentative time schedule for the actual setting up of the said bench and other details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.C. THOMAS): (a) Both the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court and the Government of West Bengal have recommended setting up of a Bench of the High Court at Jalpaiguri. As an interim measure, the Governmet of West Bengal has proposed to house the Circuit Bench at Jalpaiguri Zilla Parishad Dak Bungalow, which is under renovation, till a permanent building is constructed at an identified land at "Assam More" in Mouza Khararia, situated at the crossing

of the Bye-pass (SH-12A) and the town of Jalpaiguri. Further, as the proposal involves Parliamentary Legislation it is not feasible to indicate the tentative time schedule for actual setting up the circuit bench.

Compulsory registration of marriages

1356. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has recently suggested to enact legislation for compulsory registration of marriages in the country to prevent menace of child marriage; and

(b) if so, the action taken for early legislation in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.C. THOMAS): (a) No such recent suggestion/decision of the Supreme Court has been brought to our notice.

(b) Question does not arise in view of reply to Part (a) above.

Photo Identity Cards

1357. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether photo identity cards have been issued in all the States;

(b) if not , the States where these cards have not been issued, so far; and

(c) by when the cards would be issued to all the citizens in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.C. THOMAS): (a) to (c) The Election Commission of India has informed that the programme of issuance of Elector's Photo Identity Cards (EPIC) to all the citizens, who have been enrolled in the electoral rolls, have been launched in all the States and Union Territories of the country. The scheme is based on the process of registration of electors, which is a continous process (excepting for a brief period between the last date for filing nomination and completion of election process). Therefore, the EPIC scheme is also necessarily a continuous programme, covering every new elector enrolled in the